United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1468
31 August 1993

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Security Council, in unanimous resolution, decides to send advance team to Haiti to prepare for possible dispatch of police and military components of proposed United Nations Mission in Haiti; asks Secretary-General to report on Mission's estimated cost, scope and time-frame.

- Russian Foreign Minister, prior to meeting with Secretary-General in Geneva, says his country would commit peace-keeping troops to Bosnia and Herzegovina should a peace agreement be reached; three parties to conflict resume peace talks.

- Secretary-General recommends temporary inclusion in UNPROFOR of 50 military engineers offered by Netherlands to help Commission on war crimes in former Yugoslavia excavate mass grave sites in Croatia.

- Foreign Ministers of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russian Federation, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan agree to form coalition defence forces in Tajikstan in effort to normalize situation on Tajik-Afghan border.

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The Security Council today decided to send an advance team of up to 30 personnel to Haiti to assess requirements and prepare for the possible dispatch of the civilian police and military assistance components of the proposed United Nations Mission in Haiti. The Council said the advance team would have a one-month mandate, and could be incorporated into the proposed Mission should it be formally established. The Council took that action by adopting unanimously resolution 862 (1993), in which it took note of the Secretary-General's report of 25 August.

The Council said it looked forward to a further report by the Secretary-General on the proposed Mission, including a detailed estimate of its cost and scope and a time-frame, and dealing with the issue of coordination with the Organization of American States (OAS). The resolution

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also urged the Secretary-General to enter into discussions with the Haitian Government on a status of mission agreement to facilitate the early dispatch of the Mission, if and when the Council so decided.

United States Permanent Representative Madeleine Albright, speaking in explanation of vote, said the resolution was a crucial step in the process envisaged by last month's Governors Island Agreement. The provision of United Nations military and police personnel was vital to the process of reorientation and reconstruction in Haiti. It was also a tangible sign that the international community's commitment to the country would not end with the restoration of constitutional Government, but would continue until democratic institutions were firmly in place, she stressed.

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The Russian Federation would be willing to commit peace-keeping troops to Bosnia and Herzegovina should the three parties to the conflict there conclude a peace agreement, Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kosyrev told correspondents in Geneva today. Speaking at the outset of a meeting with Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, Mr. Kosyrev said the scope of the commitment would depend on the action of the Security Council and on the Secretary-General's definition of the agreement's peace-keeping requirements.

Responding to a journalist's question about the possibility of military intervention in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Secretary-General stressed that any military action would require the agreement of the United Nations. He reminded correspondents that he would be meeting tomorrow with the Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) to discuss cooperation between the two Organizations.

In a separate development, the Co-Chairmen of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia, Thorvald Stoltenberg and Lord Owen, held meetings with the three Bosnian parties in Geneva today, according to a United Nations spokesman. The parties also met amongst themselves, including one substantive session between the Bosnian Serb and Bosnian Government delegations.

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In a bid to normalize the situation on the Tajik-Afghan border, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan have agreed to establish coalition defence forces in Tajikstan. They informed the Secretary-General, in a letter dated 27 August, that the agreement is to be submitted for approval by Heads of State at a summit meeting of the Commonwealth of Independent States in Moscow on 7 September.

The Foreign Ministers said that the measures they were taking should help stabilize the situation in Tajikistan, and were consistent with the relevant

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Security Council decisions on the matter. They expressed the hope that the United Nations would support their agreement on coalition defence forces as their contribution to peace and security in their region.

The Security Council last week expressed deep concern about the growing crisis on the Tajik-Afghan border and the threat that posed to peace and stability in the Central Asia and beyond. The Council also reaffirmed the need to respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Tajikistan and all other countries in the region.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has recommended that the Security Council temporarily include a unit of 50 Dutch military engineers in the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR), to assist the Commission of Experts set up to examine serious breaches of humanitarian law in the former Yugoslavia. In a letter to the Council issued today, the Secretary-General said the Netherlands had offered to provide the unit, free of charge to the UN, to help the Commission excavate mass grave sites in UN Protected Areas (UNPAs) in Croatia. He noted that it was particularly important that the Commission excavate a site at Ovcara near Vukovar in Sector East of the UNPAs.

The Secretary-General proposed that the additional personnel be deployed for a period of 10 weeks starting 1 September, subject to the extension of UNPROFOR's mandate, which currently expires on 30 September.

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